

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2019

Ms. Felicia James
Federal Transit Administration
Associate Administrator for Planning & Environment
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Miami-Dade County Small Starts Application for South Corridor Rapid Transit Project

Dear Ms. James:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's application for the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program Small Starts application for the South Corridor Rapid Transit Project.

The South Corridor (South Dade Transitway) serves as the economic spine of several communities in South Miami-Dade. According to the 2010 US Census, about 20 percent of the total county population or more than 460,000 residents live in South Miami-Dade County. By 2040, this population is estimated to increase to more than 767,000, approximately one-quarter of the entire county population. As a part of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization's Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, Miami-Dade County plans to implement a network of rapid transit on six corridors, one of which being the South Dade Transitway. The South Dade Transitway is a dedicated two-lane transit facility with a shared-use path that extends from the Dadeland South Metrorail Station to the SW 344th Street Park-and-Ride/Transit Terminal Facility in Florida City. The South Dade Transitway is the only asset in Miami-Dade County that is fully dedicated to transit bus operations. After more than 20 years in operation, the adoption of the SMART Plan has provided the County an opportunity to significantly improve the transportation infrastructure along the South Dade Transitway in a sustainable manner that can support mobility and efficiency while providing resilient, long-term solutions.

On August 30, 2018, the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) selected Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the South Dade Transitway. Subsequently, the project entered the FTA Small Starts Project Development phase on October 26, 2018. On August 23, 2019, the County submitted the Small Starts application for the South Corridor Rapid Transit Project, requesting \$99,999,999 from the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program Small Starts funds.

The capital investment proposed for the South Corridor Rapid Transit Project seeks to significantly improve the existing Transitway. The proposed project will provide travel times similar to rail, comfortable, robust, and iconic stations, and enhanced safety features to provide a reliable and convenient travel option. It will give riders a cost-effective transit solution that can

be implemented relatively quickly and provide travel time reduction and congestion relief for both current and new passengers. The characteristics of the South Corridor BRT system will be sure to set a high standard for the other five corridors in the SMART Plan to significantly improve transportation mobility for the County. It will become a critical element of an enhanced multimodal transportation system that will anchor transformative, positive and long-lasting quality of life benefits at the local and regional levels. The future growth and success of our region depends on the safe and efficient movement of our traveling public.

We urge that you give full and fair consideration to Miami-Dade's grant application, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, for this important infrastructure project.

Sincerely,



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
Member of Congress